

What Do I Want in a New Place?

This is the time to think about all the things that you want in a new place: the location, the physical space, how close you want to be to other people, services and shops.

Most people do not live in a place that is “perfect” – that is, meets their every hope or desire. We make trade-offs and try to get those things that are MOST important to us.

Think about each of these items and how important they are to you. Ask yourself; Is this something that is “non-negotiable” -- an absolute necessity? Or, is this something that is “negotiable” – something you’d like to have, but would trade off if necessary to get something more important?

Item	Comment/Notes	Absolutely critical, non-negotiable	Desired, but negotiable	Not Important at this time
Living Arrangement				
Would you like to live in a house? Apartment building with a few units? Apartment complex with many units?				
Would you prefer to live very close to other people or away from other people?				
Is a building with private bedrooms and shared kitchens acceptable?				
Is a shared bathroom in the hall acceptable?				
Would a bathroom shared by 1 or 2 other people acceptable?				
Would you prefer living around only women? Men? Mixed men and women?				
Would you prefer living around only people about your age?				
Would you prefer living around people without disabilities? With disabilities?				
OTHER:				

Item	Comment/Notes	Absolutely critical, non-negotiable	Desired, but negotiable	Not Important at this time
Alone or with Housemates?				
Would you prefer living by yourself or with other people?				
Have you ever lived in a place where you had a housemate and shared expenses such as rent/utilities? What did you like/dislike about it?				
Is there any specific person you'd like to live with— a girlfriend/boyfriend, family member, or a friend?				
Would you share an apartment if you had your own room?				
Would you like a housemate to share expenses? Be a friend? Be available in case of emergency?				
Would you like a housemate who is also a personal care attendant?				
OTHER:				
Features				
What features in a home are important to you—air conditioning, dishwasher, onsite laundry, etc.?				
Do you want a first-floor unit or something not on the first floor?				
Is walking up a flight or two of stairs acceptable?				
Do you need any special accommodations for a physical or sensory disability: ramps, elevators, doorbell signalers				
Do you have or expect to have a car? Do you need parking?				

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Do you prefer a place with lots of windows and light or a place with fewer windows and more privacy?				
What else is important: A place to garden? People who speak the same language nearby?				
OTHER:				
Safety and Visitors				
Do you like having company? Do you want to have overnight guests? How often?				
Would you prefer to live in a place with a guarded entry? Intercom?				
Would you prefer to have visitors "screened"? Would you like your neighbor's visitors "screened"?				
OTHER:				
Neighborhood				
Do you want to live in a specific neighborhood? If so which one? Why?				
What features of the neighborhood are important to you? Examples: parks and recreation, well-lit streets, shopping, libraries, or public transportation.				
Do you need easy access to a specific place - a job, treatment facility, place of worship, family home?				
Do you like a neighborhood with lots of activity and interesting things going on or something quieter?				
OTHER:				

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Personal Support Needs				
Do you need daily personal attendant care basis?				
Would you like to have personal attendant care available on-site any time of the day or night?				
Do you often need quick-response medical emergency assistance?				
Do you need help with keeping your living space clean? Doing laundry?				
Do you like to cook? How often? Do you mind cleaning up after cooking? Do you need help planning and preparing meals?				
What other type of supports do you need? For example, managing money, paying rent on time, shopping, or remembering medication.				
Do you have/need personal adaptive equipment that needs to be installed in a new place?				
Are there special accommodations or modifications you need in a new place?				
OTHER:				
Pets and Service Animals				
Do you have a pet? What kind?				
Do you want to have a pet? What kind?				
Do you have or expect to have a service animal? What kind?				
OTHER:				
Alcohol and Other Drugs				
Is a community that strongly supports sobriety important to you?				

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How do you feel about being in a setting where some people may be using drugs or alcohol?				
OTHER:				
Activities				
Would you like to have access to nearby groups and social activities?				
Do you like the idea of having sponsored activities like trips and movies?				
OTHER:				